

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A personalized audio system, comprising:

a user interface that enables a user of the personalized audio system to specify a profile

5 for a personalized audio channel;

a sound recording library comprising a plurality of sound recordings;

a playlist generator that (a) selects one or more sound recording identifiers from a set of sound recording identifiers, wherein each of the selected one or more sound recording identifiers identifies a sound recording that matches the profile and that is stored in the library, and that (b)

10 creates a playlist that lists the selected one or more sound recording identifiers in a particular order; and

a sound recording reproducing device for reproducing each of the identified sound recordings according to the particular order in which the selected one or more sound recording identifiers are listed in the playlist so that the user can listen to the sound recordings, wherein

15 the personalized audio system does not provide the user with a way to determine the selected one or more sound recording identifiers prior to the reproducing means reproducing the identified sound recordings, and

the personalized audio system does not provide the user with a way to directly control which sound recording identifiers in the set are selected by the playlist generator to be included  
20 in the group of selected one or more sound recording identifiers.

2. The audio system of claim 1, comprising a server and a consumer device, wherein the consumer device comprises the user interface and a storage device for storing the sound

recording library, and the server comprises the playlist generator.

3. The audio system of claim 2, wherein the server further comprises a transmitter for transmitting the playlist to the consumer device after the playlist generator creates the  
5 playlist, and the consumer device further comprises a receiver for receiving the playlist transmitted from the server.

4. The audio system of claim 3, wherein the consumer device further comprises a processing unit that stores the playlist in the storage device after the playlist is received by the  
10 receiver.

5. The audio system of claim 4, wherein the processing unit encrypts the playlist stored in the storage device so that the user can not determine the contents of the playlist.

6. In a personalized audio system comprising a consumer device comprising a receiver for receiving broadcast sound recordings, a user interface for receiving input from a user  
15 of the system, a method for providing a personalized audio channel, comprising the steps of:

building a sound recording library on a storage device, the sound recording library having an associated library catalogue that identifies each sound recording that is in the library;

20 receiving an indication from a user of the audio system that the user desires to listen to a selected audio channel;

selecting a sound recording from the sound recording library based on the selected audio channel;

retrieving from the sound recording library the selected sound recording; and  
playing the sound recording for the user, wherein

the step of building the sound recording library includes the steps of:

receiving by the receiver a broadcast sound recording;

5 determining the identity of the broadcast sound recording;

determining whether the broadcast sound recording is a needed sound recording  
and/or determining whether the user has indicated a preference for the broadcast sound  
recording, wherein the step of determining whether the broadcast sound recording is a  
needed sound recording comprises the step of determining whether a copy of the  
broadcast sound recording is stored in the library; and

10 adding the broadcast sound recording to the library if the broadcast sound  
recording is a needed sound recording or the user has indicated a preference for the  
broadcast sound recording.

15 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of receiving input from the  
user, wherein the input comprises audio channel profile information.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of creating a wanted list based  
on the audio channel profile information inputted by the user, wherein the wanted list comprises  
20 a plurality of sound recording identifiers, and wherein the step of determining whether the  
broadcast sound recording is a needed sound recording further includes the step of determining  
whether one of the plurality of sound recording identifiers identifies the broadcast sound  
recording.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein step of determining whether the broadcast sound recording is a needed sound recording further includes the step of determining whether the broadcast sound recording fits the profile information inputted by the user.

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10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of determining whether the broadcast sound recording fits the profile information inputted by the user includes the step of determining one or more characteristics of the broadcast sound recording.

10 11. The method of claim 10, wherein at least one of the characteristic that are determined is a genre to which the broadcast sound recording belongs.

12. In a personalized audio system, a method for providing a personalized audio channel to a user of the system, comprising the steps of:

15 building a sound recording library on a storage device, the sound recording library having an associated library catalogue that identifies each sound recording that is in the library and that, for each sound recording in the library, identifies whether or not the sound recording is owned by a user of the system;

20 receiving an indication from a user of the audio system that the user desires to listen to a selected audio channel;

selecting a sound recording from the sound recording library based on the selected audio channel;

retrieving from the sound recording library the selected sound recording; and

playing the sound recording for the user, wherein

the step of building the sound recording library includes the steps of:

determining whether the user has one or more sound recordings that he or she would like to add to the sound recording library; and

5 if the user has one or more sound recordings that he or she would like to add to the sound recording library, then (a) storing the one or more sound recordings on the storage device if they are not already stored thereon, (b) updating the library catalogue such that the one or more sound recordings are identified as being in the library, and (c) updating the library catalogue to indicate that the one more sound recordings are owned by the user.

10 13. In a personalized audio system including a computing device having a playlist generator installed thereon and including a consumer device comprising a storage device, a method for providing a personalized audio channel to a user of the audio system, comprising the steps of:

15 building a sound recording library on the storage device, the sound recording library having an associated library catalogue that identifies each sound recording that is in the library;

receiving audio channel profile information at the computing device, wherein the audio channel profile information was inputted by the user;

associating the audio channel profile information with a personalized audio channel;

20 using the playlist generator to create a playlist for the personalized audio channel, wherein the playlist comprises a list of sound recording identifiers, and wherein the playlist matches the profile information;

transmitting the playlist to the consumer device;

receiving the transmitted playlist and storing the received playlist in the storage device;  
receiving an indication from the user that the user desires to listen to the personalized  
audio channel; and  
playing sound recordings for the user in accordance with the playlist after receiving the  
5 indication.

14. In a personalized audio system having a consumer device, wherein the consumer  
device has a user interface for receiving input from a user of the device, a method for providing a  
personalized audio channel, comprising the steps of:

10 receiving through the user interface input from the user, wherein the input comprises  
audio channel profile information;  
associating the profile information with an audio channel;  
receiving an indication from the user that the user desires to listen to the audio channel;  
selecting a set of sound recordings based on the profile information and based on a  
15 statute, regulation, and/or contract in response to receiving the indication from the user; and  
reproducing each selected sound recording for the user to hear, wherein  
the selected set of sound recordings are selected in a particular order and are reproduced  
in the particular order in which they are selected.

20 15. In a personalized audio system having a consumer device, wherein the consumer  
device has a user interface for receiving input from a user of the device, a method for providing a  
personalized audio channel, comprising the steps of:

receiving through the user interface input from the user, wherein the input indicates that

the user desires to listen to a selected audio channel, the selected audio channel having a profile;

selecting a sound recording that fits the profile of the selected audio channel;

determining whether the user owns the selected sound recording;

determining whether the selected sound recording should be pre-announced, wherein the

5 determination is based at least in part on whether the selected sound recording is owned by the user;

announcing the sound recording to the user before reproducing the sound recording only

if it is determined that the sound recording should be pre-announced; and

reproducing the sound recording so that the user may listen to the sound recording.

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